

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

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Claims 1-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): An image processing device comprising:

a scanner for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal;

a control unit, including a control circuit, adapted for controlling said image processing device and performing image processing on the image signal output from said scanner, to provide a first processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a first bidirectional general-purpose interface for transmitting, under control of said control unit, the image signal output by said scanner to an external computer, which performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer, the image processing performed by the external computer being processing that is necessary for copying; and

a second bidirectional general-purpose interface, of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said image processing device has a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode, performed in response to a copying designation by a user, and a second copying mode, performed in response to a copying designation by a user, in which the image signal output from said scanner is outputted to the printer without being processed by the external computer,

wherein, in the first copying mode, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted in order of: said control unit, said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, the external computer, said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, said control unit, and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface, so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, [[and]]

K, wherein, in the second copying mode, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted in order of: said control unit and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface, so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal, and

wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing in the second copying mode.

Claims 25 and 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): An image processing method for an image processing device capable of operating in a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode, and a second copying mode, said method comprising the steps of:

in the first copying mode, performed in response to a copying designation by a user:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by means of a scanner;

transmitting the image signal output by the scanner to an external computer, via a first bidirectional general-purpose interface, wherein the external computer performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer via the first bidirectional general-purpose interface; and

outputting the second processed image signal to a printer via a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as the first bidirectional general-purpose interface, and

in said second copying mode, ~~performed in response to a copying designation by a user:~~

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by the scanner;

performing, in a control unit for controlling the image processing device, image processing on the image signal output by the scanner, to provide a first processed image signal, performed by the control unit the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying; and

outputting the first processed image signal to the printer via the second bidirectional general-purpose interface,

wherein each of the first and second copying modes is performed in response to a designation of corresponding one of the first and second copying modes, and

wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing in the second copying mode.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein the transmitted image signal is processed by the external computer and transmitted to a public telephone line.

Claims 30-57 (canceled)

Claim 58 (previously presented): The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said scanner generates a color image signal.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said control unit has a density adjusting function.

Claims 60 and 61 (canceled)

Claim 62 (currently amended): An image processing method using an image processing device capable of operating in a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode in response to a copying designation by a user, and a second copying mode in response to a copying designation by a user, said method comprising the steps of:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by means of a scanner;

K, in the first copying mode, transmitting the image signal output by the scanner to an external computer, via a first bidirectional general-purpose interface, performing image processing on the transmitted image signal in the external computer to provide a first processed image signal, transmitting the first processed image signal to the image processing device, via the first bidirectional general-purpose interface, and outputting the first processed image signal to a printer via a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as the first bidirectional general-purpose interface, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying; and

in the second copying mode, performing image processing on the image signal output by the scanner, in a control unit for controlling the image processing device, to provide a second processed image signal and outputting the second processed image signal to the printer via the second bidirectional general-purpose interface, performed by the control unit the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying, and

wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing in the second copying mode.

Claim 63 (currently amended): An image processing system comprising:

an information processing apparatus comprising:

a read designation unit, adapted to designate a start for reading of a document;

a print designation unit, adapted to designate a start for printing data that said information processing apparatus transmits;

a copying designation unit, adapted to designate a start for copying; and

a processing unit, adapted to process an image signal; and

an image processing apparatus comprising:

a scanner for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal;

a control unit, including a control circuit, adapted for controlling said image processing apparatus and performing image processing on the image signal output from said scanner, to provide a first processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a first bidirectional general-purpose interface for transmitting, under control of said control unit, the image signal output by said scanner to said information processing apparatus, which performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from said information processing apparatus, performed by said image processing apparatus the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a second bidirectional general-purpose interface, of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer; and

a copy key for designating a start for copying,

wherein said image processing apparatus has a plurality of modes including a read mode performed in response to a read designation by said information processing apparatus, a print mode performed in response to a print designation by said information processing apparatus, a first copying mode performed in response to a copying designation by said information processing apparatus, and a second copying mode performed in response to an operation of said copy key by a user, in which the image signal, output from said scanner, is outputted to the printer without being processed by the information processing apparatus,

wherein, in the first copying mode, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted in order of: said control unit, said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, said information processing apparatus, said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, said control unit, and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, [[and]]

wherein, in the second copying mode, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted in order of: said control unit and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal, and

wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing in the second copying mode.